

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A variable nozzle device adapted to be mounted in an exhaust gas turbine of a turbocharger, comprising:

an annular nozzle passage-(5) formed by a gap between two opposing wall members-(1, 3); and

at least one vane-(7) extending in said nozzle passage-(5) and being rotatably supported by a shaft attached to said vane, wherein said vane-(7) is formed by includes a sheet metal contour formed by wrapping a strip of sheet metal so as to form said contour as a loop about a portion of said shaft, said sheet metal contour being affixed to an outer peripheral portion of said shaft, and attached to a wherein a further portion of said shaft-(9) protrudes beyond an edge of said sheet metal contour by a predetermined amount so as to form a stepped portion contactable with one of said opposing wall members, thereby separating said sheet metal contour from said one of said opposing wall members.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A The variable nozzle device according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein a downstream tip-(25) of said vane-(7) is formed by joining two ends of said strip of said sheet metal.

4. (Currently Amended) A The variable nozzle device according to claim 3, wherein said two ends of said strip of said sheet metal are joined by spot welding.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A The variable nozzle device according to claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein said sheet metal contour is attached to said shaft-(9) by spot welding at two peripheral portions of said shaft (9), which are diametrically opposed to each other.

Appl. No.: 10/567,517  
Amdt. Dated December 23, 2008  
Reply to Office Action of November 18, 2008

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas turbine comprising a variable nozzle device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, and a turbine wheel which is drivable by exhaust gas passed through the annular nozzle passage of said variable nozzle device.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ A turbocharger comprising an exhaust gas turbine according to claim 8.